

SAF/LLZ (Legislative Research Team)

LARSON, John B. (Democrat)
Representative, 1st District, Connecticut
Elected 1998 to 106th Congress;
Reelected to succeeding Congresses



BACKGROUND

Born: Hartford, Connecticut - 22 July 1948
Home: East Hartford, Connecticut
Marital status: Married (Leslie) - 3 children
Religion: Roman Catholic
Education: Central Connecticut State Univ, BS, 1971
Profession: High school teacher; insurance company executive
Military: None

Political: East Hartford Town Council, 1979-83; Connecticut Senate, 1983-94; Gubernatorial candidate, 1994. Defeated Kevin O'Connor (R) in 1998 general election with 59% of the vote to succeed Rep Barbara B. Kennelly (D) who ran for governor. Reelected in 2000 with 71% of the vote and in 2002 with 67%.

Rep Larson, a moderate, calls himself a consensus builder. Longtime advocate of workers' rights and opportunities for poor families, listed HMO reform, retirement security and educational improvements among his top legislative priorities. Pratt & Whitney aircraft engine manufacturer is in his district.

In the 106th Congress, opposed FY02 DoD auth HASC-report language requiring the President to submit a supplemental appropriations request to pay for Yugoslavia combat operations. Strong critic of Appropriations Cmte's attempt to cut F-22 program. Spoke of visiting Langley AFB and meeting with F-15 pilots and crew chiefs who asked why Congress was trying to cut the F-22 and stressed their dismay at how counterproductive it is to try to bolt on new technology to the F-15. (CR, 22Jul99). Said the F-22 is the only program that guarantees air dominance. (St. Louis Post-Dispatch, 23Jul99)

In the 107th Congress, said there should be no mistake about the resolve of the US in responding to the 11Sep01 terrorist attacks, but cautioned that efforts should be aimed at the terrorists and not at the innocent; supported funding in the FY02 DoD auth for 13 new F-22 fighters, additional JSF R&D, an increase for F-15 and F-16 engine upgrades; supported the April 01 AF decision to support low rate initial production (LRIP) of 20 P&W-made F-119 engines for the F-22; opposed H.J.Res.114, to authorize the use of US armed forces against Iraq, stating that it would set a dangerous precedent of preemptive first strikes and "go-it-alone unilateralism"; objected to the inclusion of language in the FY03 DoD auth that he said would jeopardize wilderness study areas beneath the air space of the Utah Test & Training Range (UTTR).

Additional: Authored nation's first "Family and Medical Leave" law which allows employees to take a leave of absence to take care of sick children or parents.

AF Bases: Bradley Field (ANG)

COMMITTEES

ARMED SERVICES -- Subcs on: Tactical Air & Land Forces; Readiness
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